

March 26, 1975

registration for my automobile and demand of the county to give me a new one, the least I can do is pay the expense of doing it. And as I say, I don't think you can do anything of that nature for a minimal sum anymore. I would support the motion to give these counties a little relief for the services they are performing.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, colleagues, I'd like to respond first of all to Senator Murphy and suggest to him with all respect that we're not talking about \$1 here. We're talking about \$5 in this particular instance and of course there are other portions of the bill that have other amounts. It's true some of the counties have a revenue problem. In fact many of them do but it seems to me it's our responsibility to face up to that problem directly and not try to tax people little by little by fees of various types that are not justified. We ought to raise the mill levy, the mill levy maximum, if that's what's necessary. This is just a way of coming in through the back door, taking a little bit out of the billfold each time somebody shows up at a county office. I'd like to say also that I'm impressed with how few times citizens who are affected by the bill really have the opportunity to express their opinions. The people who appeared for it are the people who are benefiting. Those are people of good will who understand the revenue problems but fees ought to be based on some reasonable expectation of the cost involved and the procedures required. I have to oppose the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, for the exact reasons that Senator Bereuter is giving, I support the bill. If you come into the county government and ask for a service, certainly you ought to be able to pay for that service. We in the county who pay taxes pay to have the people sit there, provide the building and everything but if you ask for a special service, certainly that fee should pay to take care of that special service. So I think Senator Bereuter, I like you real well but I think you just got a little bit the wrong idea of it. I think that a man should pay for his services. If you're going to dance, you better pay the fiddler instead of having the guy that owns the hall pay it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Body, I rise to support the advancement of the bill, if in fact we're going to continue debating it. I appreciate Senator Bereuter's concern. I have made this statement many times myself, that the man on the street doesn't have a chance to be represented and I appreciate this statement. But this is, as I understand it, and I didn't hear the committee testimony of it obviously, but apparently they did testify to the committee that they needed this raise and as Senator Keyes said, the person receiving the service pay the bill. That's what it's intended to do. It's not to circumvent a mill levy ceiling. If in fact it does that, then the committee didn't recognize that in the testimony they heard. So based on what they have said, I think that the person receiving the service should pay the bill.